

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the final Office Action of January 28, 2004. Claims 1-18 and 20-22 are pending. Claims 1-16 are rejected, claims 17, 18, 20, and 21 are allowed, and claim 22 is objected to. In response, claims 1, 11 and 14 are amended; claims 12-13, 15-16, and 22 are canceled, without prejudice; and the following remarks are submitted. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is requested.

The claims are amended so as to place the case in condition for allowance.

Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the limitations of objected-to claim 22 and in response to the Section 112 rejection, and claim 22 is canceled. Claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-10 are therefore in condition for allowance.

Claim 11 is amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 15, which was not rejected on prior art grounds, and in response to the Section 112 rejection.

Claims 12-13 are canceled, without prejudice.

Claim 14 is rewritten in independent form, incorporating the limitations of parent claim 11, and amended in response to the Section 112 rejections of claims 11 and 14.

Claims 15-16 are canceled, without prejudice.

Claims 17, 18, 20, and 21 are allowed.

Claim 19 was previously canceled.

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All pending claims are therefore in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Claims 1, 11 and 14 are amended to recite the nature of the distribution as set forth in the Specification in the third sentence of paragraph [0007].

Claim 14 is rejected as unclear and is amended responsively.

Applicant asks that the Examiner enter these amendments after final rejection as being responsive to the Examiner's request for clarification.

Applicant asks that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this ground of rejection.

Claims 1-6, 8, 9, 11-13, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 over Marijnissen U.S. Patent 5,876,860. Applicant traverses this ground of rejection.

Claims 1-8 and 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Marijnissen. Applicant traverses this ground of rejection.

Applicant traverses these rejections, but has amended the claims in the manner discussed above so as to place the application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is believed that all remaining claims are now in condition for allowance.

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Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance, and requests such allowance. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1059.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: April 20, 2004

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